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they have them so that they can't get away.
The "expert" on pages 186 and 187 of his report apparently feels much sympathy for the company on this subject.

Will the aldermen show any sympathy for the people?

The telephone company wants the public to pay high rates because of the improvements it has put in the service. If this kind of reasoning holds good, then Marshall Field & Co. and The Fair should charge higher prices for the goods because of the fine buildings and other improvements they have paid for. And on the same line of argument the Northwestern Railroad should double the price of railroad fares because it has erected a \$25,000,000 depot.

The Telephone Trust doesn't want much from the City Council.

It only wants the phone rates raised a trifle. They are not high enough at present to swell the dividends of the local and the parent company.

It only wants permission to install pay-in-advance slot machines all over the city, because people are not losing enough nickels already.

It wants the people to bear more of its earning expenses than they do now.

It wants them to deposit a nickel before they can get police or fire protection on an emergency call.

It wants the city to give it free rein to carry out its designs on the public.

It wants a great deal more.

What aldermen will sell out their constituents to help this monopoly?

Mayor Harrison made a popular move when he ordered a new report on the telephone situation. The "expert" whose report is now in the hands of the Council Committee favored the raising of rates and a general contribution to the necessities of the phone gang. His report strangely enough showed that the Chicago branch of the monopoly is owned by the American Telephone and Telegraph company, which is also owned by the American Telephone Trust. This company makes its own prices for what it sells to the other concern and the people of Chicago are expected to pay for the profits of both subsidiary institutions of the Trust.

The telephone monopoly in Chicago has grown to be an unbearable nuisance.

The service is rotten.

The scandal attendant on the passage of the telephone ordinance by the council five years ago is not forgotten.

The passage of the present ordinance will result in something more than scandal for the facts will be easier to get at.

Any alderman who votes for an increase of rates will be branded as he ought to be.

The Chicago American of June 26 contained the following vigorous article on the subject of a merger:

The New York Times announces that there is hope of telephone competition in New York City and that Armour, the great packer of Chicago is said to be back of the plan.

The idea is to buy up certain franchises in the State of New York, especially to get an entrance into New York City, and to give to the citizens the benefit of telephone competition and of actually cheap service.

The idea of cheap telephone service is going to grow in the United States, and eventually it is going to be realized, despite the power of any monopoly or the profits of any group of individuals.

It costs less, or under proper management would cost less, to send a telephone message than to send a letter.

There was a time in the United States when private individuals exploited the mails and when the citizen writing a letter paid from ten cents to a dollar or more to have it delivered. Government ownership, economical, businesslike methods, have reduced the price of sending letters to two cents all over the United States—even in the Klondike, where the letters are carried on dog sledges.

And sane, businesslike administration of the telephone system of this country, with the latest up-to-date automatic methods, would make telephoning as cheap as writing letters, and cheaper.

That will not come at once, but a very great improvement will come, and right away.

The price charged by the Bell monopoly is preposterous—there is no worse form of extortion among all the extortions in the United States.

A man who lives in the suburbs thirty miles from a big city gets a commutation ticket. The railroad carries his two-hundred-pound body back and forth twice a day for twenty-five cents a day. If he wants to talk to his house twice a day the telephone company charges him sixty cents, and charges for the wire besides.

In other words, the telephone monopoly charges more than twice as much to carry over a wire a human voice, which weighs nothing, as the railroad charges to carry a two-hundred-pound man over thirty miles of solid steel rails.

And the railroad has to have ten



HARRY R. GIBBONS.

Well Known Box Manufacturer and Democratic Leader.

minals, and locomotives, and power; whereas, with the telephone, the man's own voice is the chief power involved.

Armour of Chicago is a man who could give the people of this country the benefit of cheap telephone service—if he should make up his mind to do it. He has proved his ability as an organizer; he is a man of great wealth and of unusual industry and application. It is notorious that his working hours are from seven in the morning until six in the evening, and that work is his only amusement.

The idea is not visionary, for Armour, associated with others—with the Harriman estate, with Kennedy Todd and De Forest of New York, and with the receivers of the Chicago subway as a body—has already begun the work of giving genuinely cheap and efficient telephone service to the city of Chicago.

In Chicago the receivers of the subway have installed already more than twenty-five thousand automatic telephones. They give an unlimited service for \$5 a year—about one-half the charge of the Bell monopoly. They give unlimited telephone service to private families for less than thirty dollars a year. With a full extension of their system over the poorest families will use the telephone, and be better off at the end of the year through the saving of carfare.

The charge for pay stations with this new system, which is backed by Armour and the others, is three cents per call, and the intention is to lower this rate eventually from three cents to one cent. At one cent the profit would be enormous, with the economies of the automatic telephone and a sufficient number of subscribers.

The right plan would be, of course, for the business men of New York who pay enormous tolls to the telephone monopoly to get together, to bind themselves to take a new service—an automatic cheap service with certain guarantees—and through pressure of public opinion compel the granting of a franchise to an automatic company charging the lowest possible rate.

But it is difficult to get business men to unite; difficult to make them resent effectively even the most palpable extortion.

The chief hope lies in the courage, energy and business knowledge of such a man as Armour, who has the money, who is not frightened by the power of a monopoly, and who might, if he chose, be remembered as one of the real benefactors of the country by breaking down the telephone monopoly and making of the great telephone convenience a blessing within the reach of all and as cheap, in proportion, as the national postoffice.

The telephone trust is the most grinding of the many trusts that exist in the United States.

It snuffs out competition by the power of its money and the people are like so many serfs to be used at its own beck and call.

The rising tide of indignation will never subside until the whole telephone trust and its aides and abettors are punished.

Charles F. DeWoody, division superintendent in the Department of Justice secret service, returned from a trip on which it is reported he has been gathering information for the Attorney-General regarding the alleged Bell telephone monopoly.

It is reported that an investigation national in its scope, is being carried on by the forces of Attorney-General Wickensham looking to the filing of proceedings for the dissolution of the alleged trust. An exhaustive investigation has been going on in Chicago. It is said, of the operations of the Bell syndicate alleged to be in violation of the Sherman law.

"You have been West it is understood for the purpose of getting data bearing on the alleged telephone trust, have you not?" DeWoody was asked.

"That is a matter that I cannot possibly discuss. There is nothing that we can announce regarding any such investigation," was the reply.

We take the following from page 24 of the "Report on the Causes of Municipal Corruption in San Francisco" as disclosed by the investigations of the Oliver grand jury and the prosecution of certain persons for bribery and other offenses against the state, made by a committee appointed by the mayor of that city and published by order of the board of supervisors, city and county of San Francisco, January 8, 1910:

"The Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company bribed the Supervisors to prevent the Home Telephone Company or any other organization from obtaining a telephone franchise in San Francisco. No attack of any kind on the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company was threatened by the Supervisors, and the sole purpose of the crime was to maintain a profit which might be cut by the competition of business rivals. The Supervisors were paid in all over \$50,000. The managing committee of the board of directors of the company swore before the Grand Jury that they did not know how the funds were procured for the bribery."

This report was signed by William Kent, formerly a well known alderman and reformer of Chicago and six other members of the committee appointed by the mayor of San Francisco, Oct. 12, 1908.

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Chicago Daily News editorial, December 19, 1911:

It has been the aim of the telephone company to do away with unlimited service as far as possible and to require all users of its instruments to go on the measured service basis. Opposition to the measured service plan is aroused whenever a patron of the telephone company is made to pay two tolls where one should be sufficient.

The ordinary person in attempting to telephone to a railroad passenger station, for example, is likely to ask for the wrong number for the purpose of his call, for so confusing is the array of titles and numbers in the telephone directory that it is often difficult to decide upon the department that is wanted. Frequently the information bureau at a railroad station, when appealed to, refers the inquirer to another telephone number in the same building. This necessitates the payment of a second toll. Telephone operators are careful to prevent the second call from being made without the payment of a second nickel.

Both the railroad companies and the telephone company should do their best to see that the arrangement of department names in the telephone directory is sufficiently clear to enable inquirers to call the first time for the number they really want.

The city ought to have a bureau of complaints to which appeals for the improvement of faulty conditions of service might be made by patrons of local public utility corporations.

Penny telephones are to be established in Detroit and there is no good reason why they should not be established in Chicago. The following from Detroit explains itself:

"Reduction of local telephone rates 50 per cent for the average user, elimination of the distinction between 'residences' and 'business' telephones and the establishment of a rate of \$3.30 per month and 1 cent each for outgoing messages in excess of 200 per month on single party lines, with no limit on incoming calls, are provided for in an ordinance, on which a common council committee began hearings."

Telephone rates are entirely too high in Chicago. The Aldermen have a chance to lower them. Will they do it?

The penny telephone will come in time. Lower rates on all phones are demanded.

It is reported that the telephone company has hit upon a new scheme for the extraction of the nimble nickel from the clothes of customers.

The new scheme is called the "short ring."

Heretofore when a call was made the telephone bells jingled a long time or until they were answered.

Now, in some parts of the city they are barely tapped.

Of course if the party called does not hear the mild ring or takes the sound for a "crossed wire," or a "mistake," the caller has to try it over again and drop another nickel.

This nickel movement is a great thing.

In fact, in Chicago the telephone company has discovered the richest nickel mine on earth.

A telephone company that pays eight per cent dividends on twenty-nine millions of stock is making too much money. The people are paying too much for telephone service.

POLITICAL TALK

Heard from the Various Camps During the Week About Men Prominent in Politics.

What the Leaders Are Doing and What People Have to Say About Them.

There were 112,327 votes cast at the Aldermanic primary. Of these the Democrats polled 75,125 and the Republicans 36,659. The remainder went to the smaller parties.

The decks are now cleared for the big primary fight for the many jobs to be filled next November.

Judge Dunne returned to Chicago on Tuesday after a tour of twelve counties and four congressional districts in southern Illinois. He expressed satisfaction at the cordiality of his receptions and predicted he would poll a large vote down the state.

Alexander H. Revell, the Chicago merchant, chairman of the Roosevelt national committee, strongly urged the necessity of banking and currency reform legislation at a conference at Peoria of the Illinois section of the National Citizens' league. Mr. Revell discussed in detail the bill of the national monetary commission and pleaded for a nonpartisan, unprejudiced discussion of its merits.

Chicago will have the longest ballot this year of any city in the country.

Robert E. Burke is arranging to take the County Democracy to the Baltimore convention. The following have been named on the committee to arrange for the trip: Robert E. Burke, Richard T. Hanrahan, Morris Wilson, Peter Crot, Fred Ewert, John H. Dillard, Dr. John D. McGregor, N. G. Conybear, Stanley K. Glonski, Dr. Joseph DeStefano, Richard C. Masor, Walter V. Magnus.

The marching club will go unformed and accompanied by a band.

Nominate Albert H. Putney for municipal judge.

The newly formed Sixth Ward Deeneen club elected John F. Holland president on Monday, to succeed Wallace G. Claght.

The change of officers was caused by the report that the new club had started a fight upon John R. Thompson, who is espousing the candidacy of John E. W. Wayman, and that Mr. Clark was to be a candidate against Thompson for ward committeeman.

As many of the Deeneen men in the organization are friendly to Mr. Thompson as ward committeeman, Mr. Clark decided to withdraw from leadership in the organization after announcing that he was not fighting Mr. Thompson, but was opposing Mr. Wayman in the ward.

Nominate William D. Munhall for municipal judge.

Governor Deeneen, in a speech in Bloomington last Tuesday, pointed to the fact that during his administration thirty-eight laws benefiting the working people had been enacted.

"These laws," said the governor, "cover such subjects as the health, comfort and safety of men and women employed in different kinds of mercantile establishments, mills and workshops; the affording of additional protection to men engaged in structural work; the requiring of the better safeguarding of hazardous and dangerous machinery; and the use of safety devices in connection with machines employed in the metal polishing trades, and other important matters."

Nominate Ambrose A. Worsley for municipal judge.

J. C. Vaughan, Democrat, and James R. Mann, Republican, are unopposed for their party nominations for congress in the Second district. They had a close fight in 1910, when Vaughan cut down the Republican majority by several thousands.

Four weeks now before election.

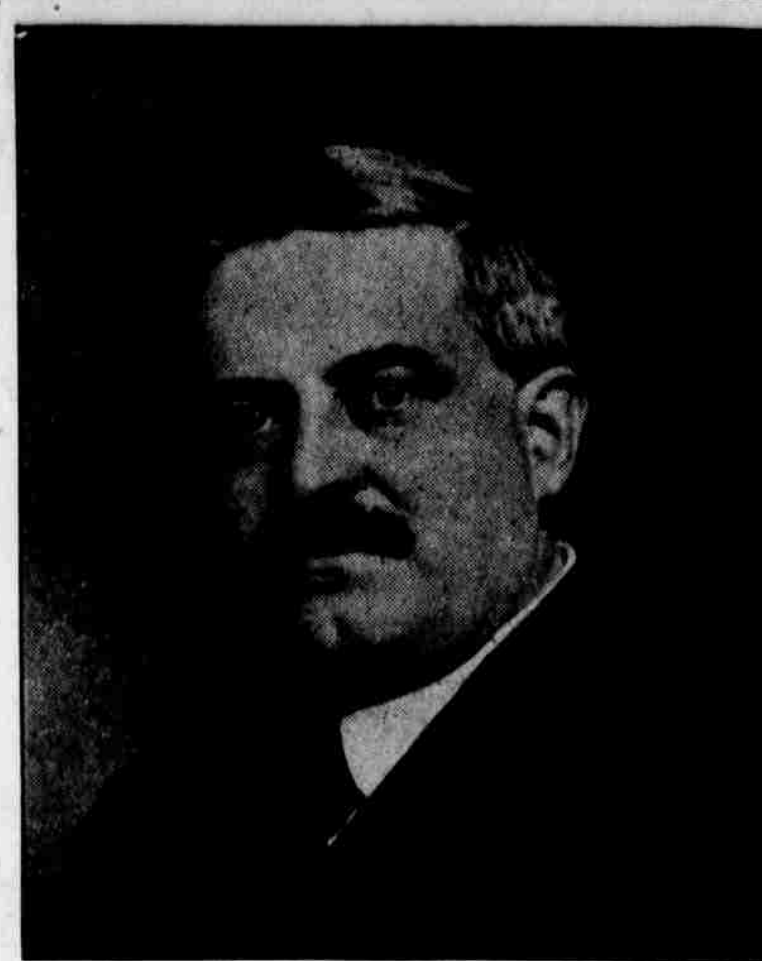
William D. Munhall's candidacy for Municipal Judge is growing in strength every day. His long and honorable record is well known and the Democrats will name a winner when they nominate him.

James J. Townsend is the choice of the Democrats of the Ninth District for State Central Committeeman. His petition has been filed and that he will win is a certainty. No man on the North Side is better known or better liked than Mr. Townsend. He is equally as well known to all Chicagoans. Both as a business man and as a citizen he can always be found in the forefront of every movement that has for its object the betterment of Chicago. His candidacy for State Central Committeeman deserves the vote of every Democrat in the Ninth District.

Does the telephone company or the aldermen run Chicago?

Albert H. Putney should be nominated for Municipal Judge by the Democrats. He is the right man for the office and his nomination will prove a strong one before the people.

Joseph C. Blaha will be re-nominated and re-elected a member of the Legislature from the Nineteenth District by large pluralities. He made good in every way during his first term down at Springfield and the people of his district know it and will not forget it.



WILLIAM KOLACK.
President West Park Board.

Following is the political calendar for 1912.

March 7, 1912—Last day for filing call for congressional and state conventions.

March 11, 1912—Last day for filing petitions for April primary (Municipal judge excepted).

March 25, 1912—Last day for filing Municipal judge petitions.

April 2, 1912—Aldermanic election.

April 9, 1912—Primary for offices to be filled at fall election.

April 15, 1912—County convention.

April 17, 1912—Congressional convention.

April 19, 1912—State conventions.

November 5, 1912—General election.

Following are the offices to be filled in 1911 and 1912:

April 2, 1912—One alderman from each ward.

November 5, 1912—President and vice-president of the United States, twenty-seven presidential electors, governor, secretary of state, attorney general, lieutenant governor, state treasurer, auditor, three university trustees, members of congress, member of the legislature, one state senator from even numbered senatorial district, state's attorney, president of the county board, and fifteen members of board, recorder of deeds, circuit court clerk, superior court clerk, coronator, member of board of review, two members of county board of assessors, nine judges of the municipal court, three sanitary trustees.

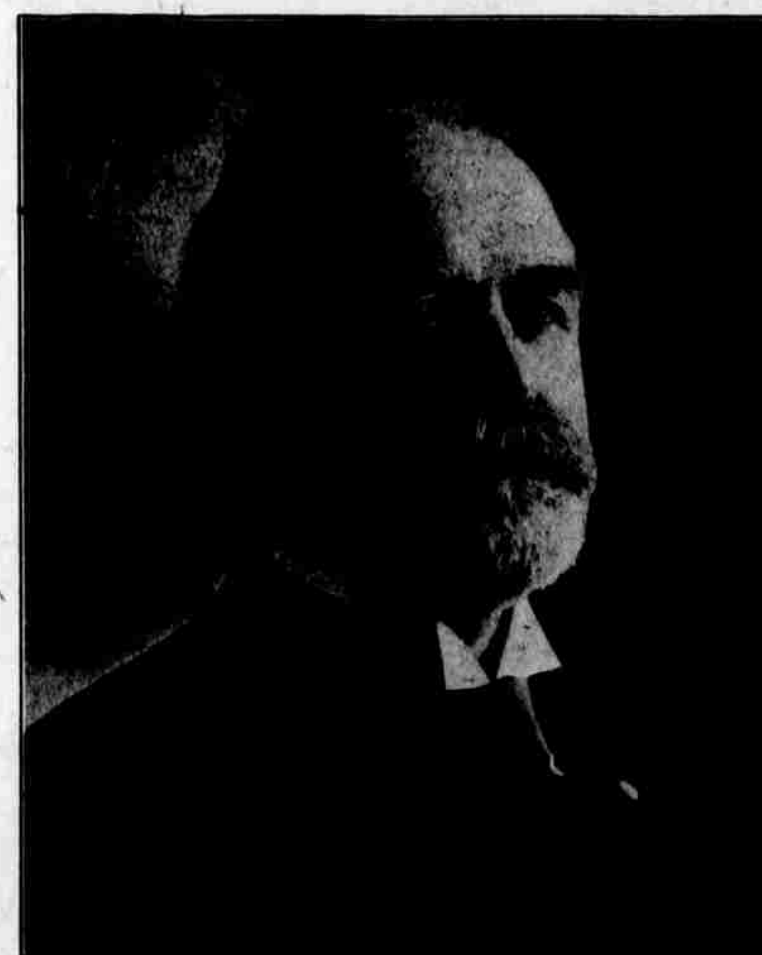
John C. Cannon, choice of the Republican county convention for County Recorder, is well known to the people of Chicago. He served as chief clerk of the election board for a number of years and his record there was an able and clean one. He is the Republican leader of the Twenty-sixth ward and is liked and respected by all who know him.

The many friends of Joseph F. Conner, predict his nomination for County Recorder on primary day by a big plurality. He is well known and well liked all over the city and will make a strong candidate.

In the Nineteenth Senatorial District, Joseph C. Blaha is making an aggressive campaign for re-nomination to the Legislature and every indication points to an easy victory for him. He is one of the best men ever sent to Springfield.

George W. Paulin, the well known furrier and sanitary trustee, would prove an easy winner for congress in the Tenth district.

Judge Edward Osgood Brown has earned by his grand record on the bench the admiration of all Chicagoans.



CHARLES TWIGG.
Fearless and Able Alderman from the Twenty-eighth Ward.



JOHN E. OWENS.
Judge of the County Court.